undertake to meet the whole expenditure, because they were proposing, in view to relieve the congestion of traffic, to construct two roads parallel to the K. K. road, and also other branch roads. The grant already promised should therefore be sanctioned so that a compound wall for the *maidan* might be constructed at an early date.

The Tekkumgopura *kadavu* was constructed six years ago at a cost of Rs. 1,500. But the canal at the place was very narrow and shallow and therefore it did not fulfil the object with which it was constructed. The articles required for the use of the Tirunakkara temple were landed there. It was also very much used by the merchants for exporting and importing goods. The Cutcherry *kadavu* near by was always crowded with steam launches or motor boats used for passenger traffic and country boats laden with articles of merchandise. Frequently, it happened that boats arriving at Kottayam could not all be moored at the Cutcherry *kadavu* and had to be taken to the other landing place. But that was very inconvenient as the canal there was not deep and wide. It should therefore be widened by the acquisition of additional lands to a length of 50 feet and a breadth of 10 feet on either side and deepened.

The Vakattanam-Nalunakkal *todu* was very narrow and curved in its course and consequently it could not easily drain away the rain water collected in the *punja* lands on its banks. Further, that canal was very useful for taking pepper, tapioca and other produce to the Tirunakkara market and for taking the articles of daily necessity to the inhabitants residing on its banks. The need for widening and improving the canal had been brought to the notice of the Government from the year 1048 onwards. At the twenty-second session of the Assembly and at the meeting of the Legislative Council held in Karkatakam 1101, the same matter had been repeated. It was once again represented to the Dewan on the 18th Kanni 1102 by a deputation that waited on him at Kottayam. If the necessary lands on either side be acquired by the Government, the agriculturists of the locality were prepared to meet the cost of improving the canal. The work should be arranged to be taken up at an early date.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Mathu Matthew, the Land Revenue Commissioner and the Peishkar are of opinion that something must be done to improve the Tirunakkara market and the proposal in respect of it will be considered shortly.

Then we come to the question of a compound wall for the Tirunakkara *maidan*. I have not seen the late Dewan's inspection notes, dated the 7th November 1922, in which, I believe, he considered the question of assisting the Municipality in the matter concerning a wall or enclosure of some sort for the *maidan*. I understand the Municipality proposes addressing the Government for assistance in the matter; and when such a representation does come from the Municipality, Government will be prepared to consider it.

Then, as regards the improvement, by widening and deepening, of the Thekkumgopura *kadavu* that is a matter which will engage the attention of the Chief Engineer. The local officers do not consider that the widening and deepening of it is necessary. But the Chief Engineer has promised to look into the matter himself at his next inspection.

Then there is the Vakattanam-Nalunakkal *todu*. That too is a matter which the Chief Engineer will look into. In fact, it has been examined, and a preliminary estimate has been placed in the hands of the Chief Engineer.

142. Some Needs of the Kottayam town.

Mr. CHERIYAN K. VARGHESE (*Member, Municipal Council, Kottayam.*) spoke about the insufficiency of accommodation and of the dilapidated condition of the District Hospital at Kottayam. The hospital building was formerly the private residence of a European gentleman, acquired by the Government about half a century ago. Very little improvements were made since then to the buildings except the addition of the maternity ward with four beds, the operation room and the dispensary building. The sign-board put up at the hospital was blank and it would appear as though the surgeon in charge of the hospital was ashamed to have the board

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painted and announce to the world that such an unsatisfactory building was a hospital. The building used for the dispensary was a shabby thatched one with low eaves. The walls were not perpendicular. The thatching alone cost the Government about Rs. 300 annually. The doctors were using the verandas for doing the prescription work. During the rains, lights had to be used both in the prescription room and the compounding room. The latter was erected as a temporary shed at first but it appeared as though it had become a permanent structure.

Of the 25 beds in the hospital for the treatment of in-patients, two were reserved for under-trial prisoners. There were only 4 beds in the maternity ward but there was no kitchen attached to the same. On an average, 60 patients were lying in the hospital against 29 beds provided there on the whole. On the 29th of Makaram 1102, for instance, the number of in-patients went up to 65. In the month of Tulam 1102, 4 persons were brought to the hospital badly cut and bruised ; but for want of room they had to be accommodated in the veranda. In the circumstances, provision should be made for at least twenty-five beds more.

There was no separate provision for small-pox cases. Small-pox patients were accommodated in a hut located on the north of the hospital compound. The floating population, especially the estate coolies, introduced small-pox in the taluk but the spread of contagion from them could not be prevented, so long as the hut in which the patients were accommodated had no walls.

The Government were adopting the policy of self-dieting in hospitals; but the Kottayam hospital had only two kitchens. Consequently, the people accompanying the patients had to cook their food in the hospital compound and the provisions, cooking utensils, etc., had to be kept under the patients' beds. That was not satisfactory. A line of kitchens should therefore be built as in the Neyyur hospital, so that each patient might have a kitchen.

Including the lady doctor, there were only four doctors, 2 compounders, 2 midwives, 4 nurses, 4 warders, 1 peon, 1 sweeper and 1 scavenger on the staff which was subject to frequent transfers. Further, the existing staff was insufficient to cope with the ever-increasing work in the hospital. In 1100, about 15,000 women, 10,000 children and 16,000 men were given medical aid. Besides attending to the out-patients, the doctors had also to attend on the in-patients and conduct operations and post-mortem examinations. The menial staff was inadequate as it had not been strengthened at the time of opening the maternity ward. One more male warder, a female scavenger and one sweeper and additional nurses should be immediately appointed.

Police cases and motor accidents were becoming common occurrences in Kottayam and the victims could not have immediate medical aid because of the absence of a resident medical officer. The doctor lived far away from the hospital and in cases of violent bleeding, his timely aid could not be had. Again, when the medical officer was off duty, the in-patients were left to the care of a warder and one or two sisters who could do nothing in cases of emergency. In order to improve such a state of affairs, a resident medical officer should be appointed, with quarters close to the hospital.

On account of the inconvenient and unsatisfactory accommodation in the hospital, only the poor and the desperate people were seeking shelter there. Well-to-do persons went out to Neyyur or Madras for proper treatment. It would therefore be beneficial if a pay-ward with at least four beds were put up.

In 1101, as many as 10,000 children and 15,000 women sought medical aid in the hospital. More would have resorted to the hospital but for the fact that there was only one lady doctor, who could not attend to all the women and children coming to the hospital. Men doctors had often to prescribe medicines for feminine ailments. That was not satisfactory. An additional lady doctor should therefore be appointed. Again, there were only four nurses and one female warder. More nurses and at least one more female warder and one female scavenger should be appointed. Incidentally, the member pointed out that the Veterinary Hospital at Kottayam was better manned and equipped. He therefore once again urged the construction of

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the necessary buildings as suggested by him. The existing central block might be used for the dispensary but the other buildings should not be put up piece-meal but should be constructed in accordance with a comprehensive plan.

The Kottayam-Kumili road was the only road starting from the Kottayam town and running east available for the use of pedestrians and vehicles. It was narrow, its width being not more than 20 feet. The heavy lorries of the Motor Transport and Aerial Rope-way Company, Ltd., were always plying on the road, leaving very little space for other traffic. Widening the road was an impossibility as substantial buildings had been constructed on either side of it. The only way to relieve the heavy traffic on the road was therefore the opening of other roads parallel to it and the member suggested the construction of the following roads :—

(1) A road north of the K. K. road starting from the Y. M. C. A. building and running straight east behind the hospital and passing between the District and Sessions Court and the Good Shepherd's Church and ultimately leading to the Kanjikkuzhi bridge.

(2) A road south of the K. K. road starting from the Travellers' Bungalow and going due east passing the Market landing and reaching somewhere near the tollgate.

The above-said roads should be opened along with the erection of buildings for public offices at Kottayam.

DEWAN'S REPLY : Mr. Cheriyan Varghese, those were two excellent suggestions which you made and which I think will be welcomed by the body capable of carrying them out, that is, the Kottayam Municipality. One is a Women and Children's Hospital, and the other is a parallel system or multiple roads. If the Municipality have not got funds, I have no doubt that, like municipalities all over the world, they can establish a sinking fund and on the security of that fund they can raise money. You said a great deal about a District Hospital which is nameless. I shall come and see that rather interestingly and luridly pictured place.

MEMBER : It is my ardent prayer.

DEWAN : I shall come there some day.

143. Needs of the Changanachery town.

MR. OUSEPH OUSEPH (*Member, Trading Classes, Changanachery*) stated that though Changanachery was a commercially important and thickly populated town, it had no convenient Travellers' Bungalow. The touring officers did not therefore halt there and consequently, the local inhabitants could not personally represent their grievances to the officers concerned who generally halted at the travellers' bungalows of the neighbouring towns of Kottayam, Tiruvalla or Chengannur. Some years ago, there was a convenient camp-shed at Changanachery but it was no longer available. The old Travellers' Bungalow was unfit for occupation. Being denied opportunities for making personal representations to the officers on tour, the people of Changanachery had only one occasion every year to make such representations *viz.*, the annual session of the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly. On those occasions, only the most pressing needs were brought to the notice of the Government.

The first and foremost need was the construction of a shed at the Market landing. Considering the quantity of merchandise exported from and imported into the taluk and the volume of passenger traffic, the shed was an absolute necessity. Although the matter had been pressed at four previous sessions of the Assembly and the Dewan had given a favourable reply on those occasions, the shed had not yet come into existence. It should therefore be put up without further delay.

There were no rivers or good canals in Changanachery for drinking and bathing purposes. The Chitrakulam was situated in a remote corner of the town and was dried up during the summer season. The only other source of water supply was the Poovakattu *chira* which was in disrepair. That was 10 acres in extent and was not dried up during the hot season. But part of it had been silted up and covered with weeds. The matter had been brought to the notice of the Government through the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly and the Legislative

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